

Lucy Maud Montgomery

- Lucy Maud Montgomery was born in Clifton (now New London), Prince Edward Island, on November 30, 1874, to Hugh John Montgomery and Clara Woolner Macneill.
- When Montgomery was 21 months old, her mother died of tuberculosis.
- Her father left her in the care of her mother's parents.
- As an only child living with an elderly couple, Montgomery found companionship in her imagination, nature, books, and writing. When she was nine, she began writing poetry and keeping a journal.
- At the age of six, she began attending the one-room school near her grandparents' home. She completed her early education in Cavendish.
- While in Prince Albert, she achieved her first publication - a poem entitled "*On Cape LeForce*" published by a Prince Edward Island newspaper, *The Patriot*.
- In September of 1891, she completed grade ten in 1892-1893. The following year (1893-1894), she studied for a teacher's license at Prince of Wales College, completing the two-year course in one year and graduating with honours.
- She left teaching for one year (1895-1896) to study selected courses in English literature at Dalhousie University in Halifax.
- It was during her stay at Dalhousie that she received the first payments for her writing.
- During her years in Cavendish, Montgomery continued to write and sent off numerous poems, stories, and serials to Canadian, British, and American magazines.
- In 1905, she wrote her first and most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables*. She sent the manuscript to several publishers, but, after receiving rejections from all of them, she put it away in a hat box. In 1907, she found the manuscript again, re-read it, and decided to try again to have it published. *Anne of Green Gables* was accepted by the **Page Company of Boston, Massachusetts** and published in 1908. *An immediate best-seller, the book marked the beginning of Montgomery's successful career as a novelist.*
- After her marriage, her husband Macdonald was minister in the Presbyterian church. She had three sons: Chester (1912), Hugh (stillborn in 1914), and Stuart (1915).
- Montgomery was a very sensitive and intelligent woman who suffered deeply from events that affected her personally and the world. In her journals, she expressed her pain at the death of her infant son Hugh, the horrors of the First World War, and the discovery that her husband suffered from religious melancholia. But despite these and other problems, she continued to write, expressing her love of life, nature, and beauty in her fiction, journals, and letters.

- Maud Montgomery Macdonald died in Toronto, Ontario, on April 24, 1942; Ewan Macdonald died in November 1943. In death, Montgomery returned to her beloved Prince Edward Island, where she was buried in the Cavendish cemetery, close to the site of her old home.
- Montgomery immortalized this tiny province through her wonderful descriptions of life, nature, community, and people on Prince Edward Island. All but one of her 20 books are set on Prince Edward Island. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people, directly or indirectly influenced by the way of life she depicted in her writing, come to Prince Edward Island to see the place she loved so much.

Notable works

- Anne of Green Gables, June 1908
- Rilla of Ingleside, 1921
- Emily of New Moon, 1923

Poetry

- The Watchman and Other Poems (1916)
- The Poetry of Lucy Maud Montgomery, selected by John Ferns and Kevin McCabe (1987)
- A World of Songs: Selected Poems, 1894-1921 (The L. M. Montgomery Library, 2019, edited by Benjamin Lefebvre)

Non-fiction

- Courageous Women (1934) (with Marian Keith and Mabel Burns McKinley)
- A Name for Herself: Selected Writings, 1891-1917 (The L. M. Montgomery Library, 2018)

Honours

- In 1923, Montgomery became the first Canadian woman to be made a member of the **British Royal Society of Arts**.
- In 1924, she was named one of the “**Twelve Greatest Women in Canada**” by the Toronto Star.
- In 1935, she was named to both the **Order of the British Empire** and the **Literary and Artistic Institute of France**.
- In 1943, she was named a **Person of National Historic Significance** by the Canadian government.

Facts:

- Her Life On Prince Edward Island Inspired **Anne Of Green Gables**
 - Like her most famous fictional character, the author spent much of her childhood outdoors embracing nature and exploring the land.
- She Kept Detailed Diaries Throughout Her Life
- Every Single Publisher Rejected **Anne Of Green Gables** At First
 - She first sent the manuscript for her most famous novel back in 1905, but ultimately couldn't pique a single publisher's interest. Maud was so disgruntled that she stuffed the pages into a hat box and hid them in her closet for two years.
 - In 1907, she dusted off the manuscript again and decided to give it another shot. This time, the **Page Company of Boston** accepted the novel and published it the following year. It became an instant best-seller.
- She Kept Her Writing A Secret From Her Family
 - In her 1917 autobiography, **The Alpine Path: The Story of My Career**, Maud admits that it was difficult for her to get started as an author, as she worked alone, fearing discouragement from those around her. However, she never let the frustration waver her resolve.
 - "Down, deep down, under all discouragement and rebuff, I knew I would 'arrive' some day," she said.
- **The Blue Castle**, a bestseller and one of Montgomery's few adult novels, was **banned** by some libraries for featuring an unwed mother and undressing religious hypocrisy.
- In 1923, Montgomery was the first Canadian woman to become a member of the **Royal Society of Arts and Letters**.
- Montgomery wrote over 500 short stories, 20 novels and two poetry collections.
- The last book in the Anne series, **The Blythes Are Quoted**, was published later in 2009. Her obituary in the New York Times stated that the manuscript had been delivered to her publisher the day before her death.
- There is a newsletter, published by the L.M. Montgomery literary society since 1992, called **The Shining Scroll**, about Montgomery's life and works.

<https://lmmontgomery.ca/about/lmm/her-life>

<https://bit.ly/3kwvWvA>

<https://littlethings.com/entertainment/lucy-maud-montgomery>

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/75-facts-you-might-not-know-about-anne-of-green-gables-and-author-lucy-maud-montgomery-1.4084431>

David Brooks

- Born - **August 11, 1961**, Toronto, Canada, Canadian-born American journalist and cultural and political commentator.
- He received his early education from the **Grace Church School**. Later, he completed his high school from the Radnor **High School in 1979**. Graduated from the **University of Chicago** in 1983 with a B.A. in history.
- He met his **wife, Jane**, while studying at the University of Chicago. The two got **married** in 1986. Later, she got converted to **Judaism** and changed her name to **Sarah**. The couple is blessed with **three children**.
- In 2006, he served as a **visiting professor** of public policy at **Duke University's 'Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy'** where he taught an undergraduate seminar.
- In 2013, he taught a course on **philosophical humility** at Yale University.

Major Works

- He is also a **noteworthy** writer who published his literary works such as
 - **'Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There'** (2000)
 - **'On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (and Always Have) in the Future Tense'** (2004).
 - **The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love 'Character and Achievement'** (8 March 2011)
 - **The Road to Character** (2015)
 - **The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life** (2019)
 - The volume editor of **'The Best American Essays'**. He was the editor of the anthology **'Backward and Upward: The New Conservative Writing'**.
 - He is best known for writing an **op-ed column** for 'The New York Times' and for being a **political analyst** for 'The News Hour with Jim Lehrer', a television news program.

Awards

- He has received **several honorary degrees** from prestigious institutions such as the **Williams College, New York University, Brandeis University, and Occidental College** among others.
 - In 2010, he was **honoured** with the membership of the **American Academy of Arts and Sciences**.
 - <https://www.britannica.com/biography/David-Brooks>
 - <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/david-brooks-3741.php>
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